STD Linking of the Cities of Gujarat

1308. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAl PATALIYABHAl RATHVAKOLI; Will the-Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether representations have been received by Government from M. Ps V. I. Ps. Chamber of Commerce and other agencies regarding direct STD linking Vadodara, \Chota Udaipur, Sural, Valsad, Broach and Ahmedabad to Chota Udai pur in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the action taken thereon and the out come thereto;

(c) whether the above STD lines are likely to be granted and sanctioned; and

(d) what are the difficulties for provid. ing the above STD services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One representation has been receiv ed recently from an MP addressed to the Prime Minister of India requesting the provision of double trunk line between Chota Udaipur and Vadodra.

As per the present traffic, direct trunk lines to Strat, Valsad, Broach and Ahmedabad are not justified. One SLCD trunk line will be provided during this year between Chota Udaipur and Vadodra.

Work is in progress to commission an additional trunk line between Chota Udaipur and 'ftodeli.

(c) Chota Udaipur is served by a manual exchange. Therefore STD is not feasible at present.

(d) Due to limitation of resources, priority station like District Headquarters are being taken up for providing STD facilities dwrfaig the 7th plan. Small sta tions, like Chota Udaipur, could he con sidered *attm* priority requirements are met.

Renewal of Railway tracks

1309. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) what progress has been made in the matter of track renewals in the country during the last two and a half years, indicating the length of raiiway tracks requiring renewal at the beginning of 1985; and

(b) what is the provision for track renewals for the current year; how far the same has been spent and *to* what extent track renewal has been achieved so far and how much more is likely to be renewed by the year end?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA); (a) Out of about 19,500 kms. of track overdue for renewal at the beginning of year 1985-86, about 9,650 kms. length of track has been renewed during last two and half years period ending June, 1987.

(b) During current year (1987-88) provision of Rs. 660 crores (net) has been made. In the first three months track renewals of 882 kms. have been undertaken at an approximate cost of Rs. 81 crores.

The track renewals target for 1987-88 has been fixed as 4200 kms.